

MOST COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS TO BE LIFTED BY MAY 19

It looks like we may have a normal summer – or close to it – after all. On Monday, April 19, Governor Ned Lamont announced the next two stages in the state's lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions which were imposed last March to prevent the spread of the virus.

Lamont said that on Saturday, May 1, most restrictions on outdoor events will be lifted. The curfew for restaurants, entertainment venues, recreation venues, and theaters will be moved back one hour to 12 am midnight; outdoor dining will not be limited to eight persons per table; and bars can serve alcohol outdoors without serving food.

Lamont also said that on Wednesday, May 19, virtually all remaining restrictions will cease. Bars will be able to serve patrons inside, capacity limits for public and private outdoor events will be removed and social distancing requirements will be dropped.

However, the Connecticut Department of Public Health is expected to issue more specific guidelines on large indoor and outdoor events, such as concerts, parades and graduations.

One COVID restriction will remain: Lamont said that masks must still be worn while indoors at least until May 20, when this executive order issued by the governor

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Arrest Made in Shooting of 3-Year-Old

Hartford Police have arrested a city man in connection with the fatal shooting of 3-year-old Randell Tarez Jones. The suspect in the murder, Jaziah Smith, 19, of Atwood Street, Hartford, was taken into custody on Monday, April 19. Jones remains in custody on bail set at \$2.5 million.

Police Chief Jason Thody said the investigation into the fatal shooting is ongoing and more information about the circumstances of the crime may be forthcoming. The warrant for Smith's arrest will remain sealed for two weeks.

Jones was murdered in a drive-by shooting on Saturday, April 10, near the corner of Nelson and Garden Streets in Hartford. Police believe the intended victim of the shooting escaped the vehicle without injury but Jones was fatally struck by a bullet. His mother and sisters, who were also in the car were also uninjured. Thody said people had come forward with information about the case after attending a vigil for Jones at the site of his murder on Monday, April 12.

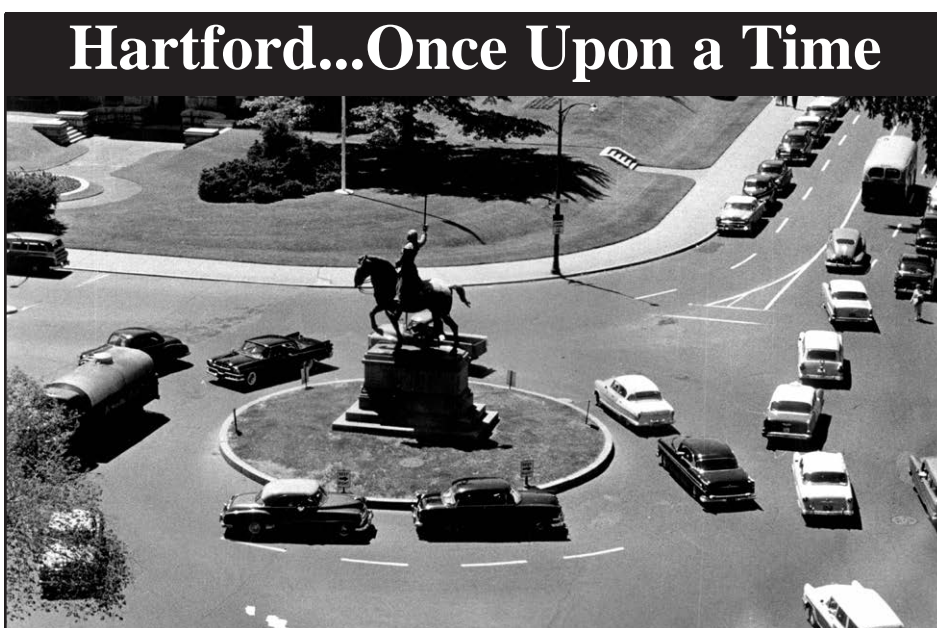


Outdoor Art Exhibit on Puerto Rico in Pope Park

Former City Councilperson Luis Cotto speaks on Saturday, April 17, at the opening of "The Museum of the Old Colony," a new art exhibit at Pope Park. The exhibit was created by Pablo Delano, a fine arts professor at Trinity College, and it examines the effects of U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico through photos and artifacts, which Pablo has been collecting for many years. The exhibit is located on the east side of the swimming pool fence, so it can be viewed by anyone, anytime. Plans are already underway to bring it to other locations in Hartford. (Hart photo)

Panel Discussion on Hartford's Recovery Tonight

Hartford NEXT will host a virtual panel discussion, "Building Back Our Community: Better and Stronger" on Thursday, April 29, from 6-7:30 pm. The discussion will focus on the recovery, rebuilding, and enhancing the Hartford Community (residents, small businesses, organizations) for sustainable economic benefit. Participants will have an opportunity to share your suggestions for the funds coming to the City of Hartford from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to build back our community. Panelists include Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin; I. Charles Mathews, Director of Development Services, City of Hartford; Kim Staley, Chief Administrative Officer, Capital Workforce Partners; James Horan, Executive Director, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC); and Julio Concepcion, Executive Director, Hartford Chamber of Commerce. The discussion will be moderated by Bilal Sekou, Associate Professor of Political Science, Hillyer College, University of Hartford. To register for this Zoom meeting, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUuf-utrzopGdGGx4mNoQKgtM-ErYuCZ2Se>



What's wrong with this 1957 photo of the Lafayette Statue on Capitol Avenue? The statue is facing south, instead of north, as it does today. In fact, the photo was taken just before the statue was turned around. Rumor has it that the statue was moved because legislators at the State Capitol were tired of looking at the rump of Lafayette's horse! (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library)

NEWS BRIEFS

Free Admission to Historical Society May 1

Admission will be free to the Connecticut Historical Society Museum and Library. 1 Elizabeth Street, Hartford on Saturday, May 1, from 9 am - 5 pm. Family Grab and Go Bag will also be available. Explore the stories of some famous and not-so-famous people from Connecticut's past. Then, pick your own "person of the year" and draw their portrait – ALL necessary materials included!

Kamora's Corner Earth Day Clean-up Saturday

Kamora's Cultural Corner will host a clean-up and beautification of its Sterling Street Nature Reserve and Sanctuary on Saturday, April 24, from 9 am - 1 pm. Wear comfortable clothes and "be prepared to get dirty." The event will also include a book-give-away and a sale of "Our Black People Are Fabulous" lawn signs.

Puppet Show Saturday

On Saturday, April 24, ISH, a free shadow puppet show will be held at 6:30 pm in Ramon Quiros Park, located off Hudson Street between Buckingham and Park Streets. The event will be held outdoors so please spread out to practice safe social distancing. Felicia Cooper, who is putting on this show, built up a bicycle and cargo trailer with help from BiCi Co. to transport the show from park to park in Greater Hartford.

Old North Cemetery Tour May 29

Michael Fothergill, William Hosley and Charles Barrow will lead a tour of Old North Cemetery on Thursday, April 29, at 4 pm. Established in 1807, Old North is the city's second oldest public cemetery. It is the final resting place of several black soldiers who served in the American Civil War, along with several Hartford leaders in politics and business.

South End Historic Tour May 1

A Walking Tour: Hartford's Historic South End will be held on Saturday, May 1 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. The tour will explore several historic sites in the Coltsville and the Charter Oak neighborhoods, including the Colt Factory and its worker houses, the

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Clean and Beautiful Parks!

BY DONNA SWARR

One of the most important things we all want when visiting our city parks is for them to be clean. There are two ways we can help this happen: don't litter when we're there, and help keep them clean. I don't know why people litter, but a lot of research has gone into figuring that out. The most common excuse is "There isn't a garbage can close by", or even "I am feeding the animals". To alleviate that, our parks have cans placed throughout them. and with education and messaging, we try to remind people to keep it clean.

But clean-ups are still needed on a regular basis. Our parks staff is only able to get to a park once a week to clean up, and we, the people, need to help out. Many groups organize clean-ups in our parks and in our neighborhoods. I'm not expecting anyone to become a cleanup addict, but I



am asking that you participate in one clean-up a year. It's hard to keep track of when they're being held, so I recommend that you read the News Briefs section of the *Hartford News*, or go to facebook.com/clean-parkshartford to find out when and where they'll be happening. Frequently, the clean-ups will also include planting, mulching, and weeding activities.

If you are an organizer, be sure to post your event on that Facebook page. You may or may not be aware that Knox, Inc. has clean-up tools for you to borrow, but you need to ask well in advance as there may not be enough for several groups on any given weekend. Go to KnoxHartford.org to register for a clean-up and to request; trash bags, gloves, brooms, rakes, shovels, and litter picks.

Substandard Practices Carpenters and their construction trade union cry foul

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Even though the pandemic continues to cast a pall over the near-empty streets of downtown Hartford, there is still activity in one area—development. Not just Shelbourne, whose portfolio of city properties being converted to rental housing and mixed-use steadily grows, or RMS breaking ground for Phase One of "North Crossing" (formerly DoNo). Many residents are now paying close attention to Park & Main, two pre-fabricated modular structures rising in the South Green area, facing each other across Park Street. The developer is Spinnaker, a Norwalk-based mega-firm with multiple properties in Connecticut and New York. This week, those passing by that corner may have noticed a large banner on the fence surrounding the skeleton of the north side building: "Shame on Spinnaker". Nearby stand some Hartford residents who are members of the Carpenters Union Local 326, handing out literature that outlines their issues with Spinnaker, whose most recent purchase in Hartford is the 55 Elm Street former State office building and adjoining parking lots across from Bushnell Park, with plans to develop those properties into hotel, residential, and retail spaces. So where exactly does the shame come in?

"I want to make it very clear that the violations being committed during construction of Spinnaker-owned developments are not perpetrated by Spinnaker, but by some of the subcontractors they hire to work on those projects", said Teddy Duarte, Council Representative for the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters. Duarte refers to these subs hired by Spinnaker as being "unscrupulous", by paying workers off the books and misclassifying them as 1099s— independent contractors. This results in the subcontractor not having to pay payroll taxes to the federal government and



the State of Connecticut locally, and such practices on a national level incur more than \$8 billion in lost revenue every year, nor do they have to pay into unemployment insurance. The union classifies this as "fraud". And independent contractors are paid a lower rate than union workers. As an example, he mentions the 2008 recession in which workers in many industries were laid off. "When the so-called 1099s went to file for unemployment compensation they found that they weren't eligible." In another instance, roofing company workers brought in by Spinnaker to do repairs in the aftermath of a major storm were deliberately misclassified as "secretaries"—office workers—instead of laborers by the subcontractor. Consequently, these misrepresentations by the subcontractors also lead to cost-savings of up to 30%, giving them a bidding advantage over law-abiding contractors. "What we want", said Duarte, "is for Spinnaker to be more vigilant about hiring law-abiding subcontractors. They need to be aware that we are watching them and we're not going away. The protests will continue."

A look at Carpenters Local 326 Facebook page reveals photos of those "Shame on Spinnaker" signs at several other construction locations, including many in New Haven County. Jeff Wolcheski, also a staff member of the NASRCC, told the *Hartford News* "We have actions going on at various sites around the state." He calls the misclassifying by Spinnaker's subcontractors an "underground economy". "These subs often bring workers to a project who have no training and they offer no safety programs. The result is 'You get what you pay for'. These tactics allow them to circumvent local, state,

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Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

Jazz Festival is Back!

Boy, did we miss the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz (GHFJ) last year! But this year it will be back, Friday through Sunday, July 16-18 in Bushnell Park in Downtown Hartford.

The Hartford News' history of involvement with this, the largest jazz festival in New England, goes back to the mid-1990s when Thomas D. Harris, IV actually ran the event out of our offices!

At first, our limited staff tried to field all the questions that came in over the phone from all over the world, later Thom got his own phone line. For a few years, Thom and Maurice Robertson published *The New England Jazz News* and we did the layout work. He also worked closely with Paul Brown and other luminaries of Hartford's jazz scene and became known around town as "Mr. Jazz."

Early on, *The Hartford News* also produced the official programs for the GHFJ. After Thom passed away in February, 1999, the Advocate newspaper group (also now long gone) made an offer to take over publishing the festival program that its organizers couldn't refuse. But, after several years, the folks at the Advocate decided the program was not profitable enough for them to continue publishing it. As a result, it came back to *The Hartford News*.

Your reporter, a City Councilman in the 1990s, also had a bit of a hand in all of this. Our fondest memory of those years included giving the "Key to the City" to the legendary Dave Brubeck at the

1998 jazz festival!

Since 1991, the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz has earned a well-deserved reputation of bringing in top jazz musicians while also featuring up and coming local talent. Hartford's location between New York City and Boston has certainly helped, as has having one of the top music schools in the country, the Hartt School of Music, located right in our backyard.

Since everybody seems to be cooperating this year, expect a top-flight, well-run festival. Here's a few suggestions to make your experience easier and more enjoyable if you plan on attending the festival this year. Show up early, mark your spot and bring some cash for the vendors selling food, beverages and gift items as well as to make a donation. The cost of producing this nationally-know festival, which has become one of Hartford's signature events, is enormous. Musicians, sound crews, security must all be paid but admission is free. So please, if at all possible, make a donation of whatever your budget allows and help keep this great Hartford tradition going.

The *Hartford News* will be producing the official GHFJ program this year. In addition to information on the musicians and the festival itself, it will also include listing for upcoming events in the Greater Hartford area for the remainder of the Summer and into Fall.

If you're interested in supporting that special edition, give us a call at 860-296-6128.



From Park Street to the River and Back Again

On Saturday, April 17, BiCiCo Hartford hosted an Earth Week Bike Ride from its shop at 95 Park Street to the CT River; along the river to the Windsor town line and then back again. The group stopped along the way to hear a presentation from Riverfront Recapture's Mike Zaleski and Chris Hayes on the organizations newest addition, a large parcel in the Windsor Meadows. BiCiCo's director Tony Cherolis (left) is shown above at Riverside Park. (Hart photo)

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Letters to the Editor

Improvement Projects for Hartford Neighborhoods

(Letter to Hartford City Council and Mayor)

BY BILL KATZ

The following is a letter that I recently wrote to the mayor and city council. I believe that Hartford is going to hell quicker than you can say “ouch.” Our neighborhoods have become one huge slum from one end of the city to the other. I think the first step to trying to change the pattern is recognizing that they exist and seeking innovative approaches to solving them. Some problems are easy to fix, as one councilperson who remarked about “low-hanging fruit” to address. Other issues cannot be addressed by local government such as decriminalizing heroin and making it available in methadone clinics. But they could use the bully pulpit to advocate for a radical solution. But one thing is certain; problems are becoming worse and worse.

Hartford neighborhoods have fallen into disrepair. There are many issues to tackle and I wish to shed light on litter, driving behavior, graffitied street signs, missing street identification signs, using front lawns to park cars and other issues.

1. It’s been recently discussed that parking on lawns is a zoning violation and homeowners will be cited. This is a much needed solution. Consistency and enforcement is the key to ending this problem.
2. **Dangerous Driving:** Driving recklessly through Hartford streets is now a common occurrence. Running stoplights and stop signs is the norm. Solution: We need cams with the ability to identify and issue citations and the locations of these cameras should not be published. Receiving one or two traffic fines will change driving behavior. At this time, it’s very out of control.
3. **Graffitied street signs and missing street sign names:** Street signs must be installed no less than 7 feet off the base or they will be marked. (I had to call DPW twice to reverse a recent new sign that was within arm’s reach and marked up). This rule is not always followed. And we need missing street name signs replaced.
4. **Litter:** This is out of control and we need to approach this from different perspectives. These ideas will take time. These are not quick fixes. It’s common for residents to toss litter into the streets. Buying street sweepers, as valuable a tool as they are, is counter-productive to the remedy because, in my opinion, it instills in the resident that it is all right to toss litter into the streets knowing that a sweeper will pass by.
5. We need to change the mind-set

of people. I proposed a few years ago to city administration and a Board of Education member to consider instituting a new program in the lower grade levels of city schools. Classes would be sent into school yards with their teacher to pick up specially sanitized litter. The teacher would then return to the class room and discuss how cool it is to pick up litter. Hopefully, these kids would return home and re-educate their parents the next time one of them tosses litter out the window of their car as they drive down one of our streets. And this hoped-for effect will inspire these families to pick up litter in front of their homes. How much will this cost the city? Nothing. It would be built into the educational program.

6. Some of us already pick up litter in our neighborhoods. Besides myself, I know of two nearby neighborhood residents who do this now. Let’s have an annual recognition day for these folks and give them an award – maybe even a token monetary award. Promote it. Make them heroes. As city manager Wilson Gaitor long ago once said on trash receptacles, “Be a Gaitor Aid.” Make it a prideful thing for all of us to engage in and promote. Maybe include all city council members and mayor to go out to pick up litter so they can lead by example. The parks are filthy. The streets are filthy. Let’s do it. But let’s not deceive ourselves that for one weekend every spring, having a community litter pick-up campaign solves the problem. It doesn’t. Trash returns the following day. We must change the mind-set.
7. **Fireworks:** July 4 is rapidly approaching. The incendiary devices that are exploded are no longer firecrackers and cherry bombs. They are real bombs. And it no longer lasts for a week. It continues for several months. When do we address this issue? It’s always forgotten until the next cycle. These aerial bombs are disturbing to the elderly, babies, wildlife, and our domestic pets and everyone else except the perpetrators. Certainly, this is not only a local problem, but a state and national problem. It’s oppressive and it needs to be fixed.
8. **The Proposed Downtown Bike Lane:** I have a minority view but I think this plan should be tabled until we can figure out how to lower the incidences of catastrophic car crashes. I get it. The lane can be secured and made safe for the short stretch. But how will bike riders reach the

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Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Bushnell Park Foundation

True to their mission, lots of improvements are happening in 2021

BY DONNA SWARR

The hub of Hartford’s “wheel of parks”, Bushnell will have several improvement projects in process this year. Rest assured the park will remain open, but please, stay clear of the construction areas. On the east side of the park the sidewalk will be refurbished and lighting with historically appropriate fixtures are being added. The project is funded through a CT DEEP grant and matching funds from the Hartford Parks Trust Fund. The design and implementation of improvements are being coordinated with the Bushnell Park Foundation (BPF) and the iQuilt Partnership. Work will begin west of the Hoadley Gate entrance near Wells and Gold Streets, and will proceed west by the pond towards the carousel. The final phases of the work will be on the south side of the park, towards Elm Street and the Pump House.

The Bushnell Park Foundation and iQuilt raised \$200,000 for to the Pump House upgrades, which include new windows, doors, and electrical work. Half of the funding was provided by the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act. Score Builders of Hartford is the contractor and it is projected to be completed by late June or possibly into July. The space will be the BPF’s office and will be available for rent for small events. iQuilt will have access to the Pump House during Winterfest.

Plantings around the Corning Fountain were removed last year in anticipation of planting new shrubs; 18 types of perennials have also been selected. This was inspired by the Native American medicine wheel, an idea suggested by longtime park advocate Charmaine Craig.

The Israel Putnam sculpture will be receiving its first restoration since it was placed in the park in 1874. Francis Miller of Conserve ART LLC will be doing the work. Miller has restored two other statues in the park--Spirit of Victory and Horace Wells.

BPF launched the Weidenmann Tree Society, named after Jacob



A great blue heron gazes out over the pond in Bushnell Park. The park is the oldest in Hartford and the first publicly-funded park in the nation.

Weidenmann, the landscape architect who designed the park in an 1860 plan. This campaign will officially kick off on May 1st, and will be part of the crowdfunding campaign that the Connecticut Valley Garden Club has organized with several other Hartford parks. Donations will receive a match from Sustainable Connecticut. The goal is to ensure ongoing future tree replenishment and sustainability. The financial goal for this campaign is \$300,000, and the funding will be to assess the condition of trees in the park, replace and maintain aging trees, and develop a new tree planting plan in collaboration with the City of Hartford’s Forester, the Department of Public Works, the Hartford Tree Commission, knowledgeable arborists, and park advocates. The committee developing the tree planting plan has taken particular effort and interest in researching a variety of tree

species that would add to the richness of the park’s tree canopy. Such offerings may include Giant Sequoia, Serviceberry, Loblolly Pine, Franklinia, Horse Chestnut, Yellow Magnolia, American Basswood, and Crape Myrtle. Help Bushnell Park Foundation celebrate its’ 40th Anniversary by chipping in to support this important project. More information is available on their website, www.bushnellpark.org.

Earth Day Clean-up at Riverside Park Sunday

Sunrise CT will host an Earth Day Clean-up and Rally this Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 1 PM in Riverside Park. In addition to the clean-up, there will be several speakers who will discuss a Green New Deal for CT. RSVP at bit.ly/sunrisectearthday2021.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Isabel Hernandez (21-00252)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated April 9, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A continuing series of updates on former winners of SINA awards and scholarships

Hyacinth Yennie – NSA Winner '98

BY LOGAN SINGERMAN



At left is a picture of Hyacinth Yennie from a Hartford Courant article in 1998. She was recognized with five others for her extensive volunteering in the neighborhood. In the article, it mentioned she was a co-founder of Organized Parents Making a Difference (OPMAD), a non profit organization that provides after school enrichment activities at neighborhood schools, as well as the chairwoman of the Southend Knight Riders Youth Center advisory board and the Hartford Areas Rally Together (HART) education committee. OPMAD began when a group of parents were extremely dissatisfied with the lack of activities that existed for their kids at neighborhood schools. After a lack of response from the school system, the parents took matters into their own hands. The Southend Knight Riders was organized by adults and youth in the neighborhood when it was recognized that young people needed more outlets for social activities. It began in the basement of St. Augustine's church and grew from there. HART met regularly so that residents could organize to advocate for neighborhood improvements that addressed quality of life issues.

So where is she now? Chances are strong you will find her at her office at the Southend Wellness Center on Maple Avenue where she is chair of the advisory committee. If you visit, it will become clear to you that Hyacinth has been very busy for the past 20 years. The walls are covered with pictures and newspaper clippings of just a few of the endeavors she has had her hand in. The Southend Wellness Center is one of them. When Hyacinth was running for town committee and getting signatures in 2004, she noticed a lot of elderly individuals shut in with no place to go. After realizing the current community centers were inadequate and not utilized, she jumped into action. With an unstoppable determination which characterizes much of what she does, she found a location for the site after many setbacks and secured funding

from the city and state. Below is a picture from the ribbon-cutting in 2007.

This ability to advocate on behalf of the neighborhood is a true gift for Hyacinth. She used that talent to help secure funding for renovating Hartford Public High School, M.D. Fox Middle School, and building the Learning Corridor. She also helped secure funding for the renovation of the football field at Hartford Public High School which is currently underway and \$2.25M for a streetscape project about to start this year. In all of these projects, Hyacinth spoke to anyone, no matter their position of power. From a city clerk to a federal secretary of education, she spoke with confidence and clarity. Hyacinth believes that sometimes institutions need a little push to move into action. Luckily for her community, she is the queen of the nudge.

"If you want to get anything done, it has to happen through relationships"

She also is very gifted at getting others involved with the process. "If you want to get anything done," she said, "it has to happen through relationships." After she became president of HART in the early 2000s she led the group to have a more collaborative approach. This is the same approach she uses today as the chair of the Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) where she continues to work with others to improve quality of life issues. Hyacinth knows the power of a phone call to get people involved. The annual MARG cook out attracts hundreds of residents (pictured below). Bikes and other items are given away. Everything is donated -Hyacinth doesn't spend a single penny. This is the power of relationships and the power of community.

Hyacinth learned about the power of community growing up in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. She grew up where the motto "it takes a village" was a reality. People just helped one another because that is



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TIME'S UP!

Legalizing the sale of recreational marijuana in Connecticut has become a political football

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIKIAN

Four years ago, the second piece I wrote for the Hartford News was titled "Weeding Out the Myths", after talk of state legalization had begun. Here's an excerpt from that commentary:

"I do not mean in any way to encourage marijuana use. It is a personal decision—an adult decision—to indulge in the weed for recreation and relaxation, the same decision made when choosing to use alcohol or tobacco, or to gamble.

When marijuana is legalized, its production is controlled, and is safe from harmful added chemicals. It is sold by licensed vendors only to adults with proper identification. It leads to a verifiable decrease in crime—not huge, but measurable. And it increases tax revenue, to the benefit of the state. Opioid use and abuse has reached an extremely critical point, both locally and nationally. The death toll continues to rise. Lives are ruined. Families are suffering, Drug-related crime has spiked. It's becoming a tragedy of epic proportions, and efforts to ameliorate it must continue. But it

has no correlation or comparison to the recreational use of marijuana in moderation by responsible adults. Isn't it about time, Connecticut? Legalize it."

That was in May 2017. In the interim, Massachusetts, Maine, and now

New York have all passed legalization. Does anyone have an estimate of how many Connecticut dollars have been spent on cannabis in Massachusetts

with its dozen retail outlets—the nearest only

20 minutes over the border on I-91? Those dollars should have, and could have, remained in Connecticut, but they've been dragging their feet at the Capitol and can't seem to come to an agreement that will satisfy all the different factions in the legislature and get them to vote it through. The latest arguments and separate bills do not bode well for passage any time soon. We're now in overtime and the clock is running out, taking much-needed revenue away from our state with every tick.

Either vote, or get off the 'pot'!"



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Goodwin Park Clean-up

On Saturday, April 10, the Friends of Goodwin Park (FOGP) held their first clean-up of the year. Among the volunteers who turn out for the event were Bill Ravenscroft, Larry Pysh, Dianne Ney, Hyacinth Yennie, Jon Ney, Janier Caban, FOGP President Billie Lanz, Haley Serrano and Michael Serano. If you would like to receive updates from the Friends of Goodwin Park about events and activities in the park email, jchernandez@snet.net and asked to be added to our email list. (Hart photo)



Lifting of COVID Restrictions

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will expire. The state legislature could reimpose the mask requirement.

Lamont added that the lifting of restrictions is contingent on both declining coronavirus rates and rising vaccination rates. Despite daily fluctuations, Connecticut has been fairly steady recently in terms of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. The state’s COVID-19 positivity rate (the percentage of those who test positive for the disease) for the past week was 2.8 percent.

As of Tuesday, 507 people were hospitalized for COVID-19. This is higher than in early in March, when hospitalizations were around 400. The number of COVID-19 related deaths in Connecticut surpassed 8,000 last week and now stands at 8,020.

The news is better in terms of vaccinations. Connecticut ranks fourth in the country, according to becker-shospitalreview.com. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, as of Tuesday, 1,147,703 Connecticut residents had been fully vaccinated, 32.19 percent of the state’s overall population.

Although the state is planning to re-open in the next few weeks, the COVID-19 virus is still present and caution is needed. While state-man-

dated social distancing regulations may be ending, Lamont said he is relying on individual businesses to do what is safest for their customers and staff based on their individual situations.

Due to the remaining presence of the virus and the disruption it has caused over the past year, things will not go back to normal like the flick of a switch when most restrictions are dropped on May 19.

Many large events, such as parades and festivals, require months of planning and fundraising. Even in the best of times it’s a complex and difficult process. This year it was even harder with event organizers unsure if the event they are raising funds for would even be allowed to take place. As a result, some familiar events will not be held this year. The Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz, however will still be held July 16-18 (see Mike McGarry’s column, page 2) and Riverfront Recapture is also planning major events.

Another piece of the puzzle is “If they hold it, will they come?” Will people feel safe in crowded restaurants and concerts with the COVID-19 virus still active? As Spring turns to Summer, hopefully the COVID-19 positivity rate will decrease due to the state’s high vaccination rate and things will go back to at least “near normal.”

Spinnaker

Continued from page 3

and federal standards.” NASRCC has reached out to Spinnaker offering to help them budget their projects. “We’re looking for a level playing field”, said Wolcheski. When asked about the project at Park & Main in Hartford, he resisted saying anything negative about the construction process, but did indicate that the modular pre-fab units being fitted together and stacked on-site come in on trucks from out of state and have been subjected to “shifting and shaking” along the route. The project is being touted by Spinnaker and the city as “workforce housing” (not to be confused with “affordable” housing), and is meant to appeal to workers at nearby Hartford Hospital. Rents are expected to range from \$1,200-\$1,700 a month at market rate, but approximately \$200 a month less for qualifying workforce tenants. Spinnaker has received millions in CRDA loans for Park & Main as well as other developments in Connecticut.

As of publication time, the Hartford News has been unable to reach the city’s Department of Development Services or CRDA to inquire if the Park & Main project includes a “community benefits” clause.

Bill Katz Letter

Continued from page 3

safe lane? They will pedal through the now dangerous streets of Hartford and we pray that they won’t get hit like the young man who was decapitated on Wethersfield Avenue last summer while happily riding home from his job at Black-eyed Sally’s. It’s hard to retreat from an active project but in light of circumstances, I believe this would be the right thing to do.

9. MDC Boxes: Those marked up boxes need to be painted and repainted. About four years ago, I presented a business plan to MDC to repaint all marked up boxes in Hartford minus the ones that were colorfully painted along Franklin Avenue. Good idea, they said, however, they had just purchased a new expensive miracle paint that after application, any graffiti would wash off after a rain. And they told me they needed to field test the paint. That was four years ago. I grew tired of driving past these marked boxes in my neighborhood so I painted them on my own without permission. Even MDC refuses to take part in helping to revitalize Hartford.

10. Home Ownership: First time homeowners need to be educated about the importance and need to continually work on home improvement projects. Perhaps Habitat for Humanity could work in conjunction to offer neighborhood talks about the simple and more complicated upkeep on one’s home. I work on at least one substantial home improvement each year and several small projects. Houses need to be in constant repair but many first-time homeowners don’t comprehend this.

11. I think a city flyer mailed on a quarterly basis, to inform residents on these issues and let’s form an ad-hoc group to advise on content. Count me in. The design should be colorful not the usual drab notices we get which many residents often discard before reading. Use a catchy title; a colorful graphic. We could use a school art department to design it. I was just informed by Tom Swarr in a Hartford News article that I’ve

been putting the wrong items in my recycle bin. We need a quarterly to up-date to inform us residents.

12. We need to think outside the box. We need to act. The consequences of inactivity are that as neighborhoods continue to deteriorate, and they are deteriorating ever more so every day, responsible residents are moving out of Hartford. Believe me, I have had these conversations with neighbors on my street. And I’m sure it’s on the minds of many more of us. The more responsible residents that move out are replaced by less responsible folks. That’s the way it works. Remember when “gentrification” was a good word? Then it became a bad word that defined displacement. Then it became a good word again (for some) if only they would return.

13. Shooting Deaths: I don’t know how to resolve this. We will never enact strict gun control laws. So maybe use another approach to lessen the drug gangs; decriminalize narcotics (supposing that many shootings are drug-related) and make heroin (and clean needles) available to confirmed addicts. Doing this would remove the profit motive from drug gangs. Those addicted will get their illegal narcotics on the street or through clinics and spend their lives going in and out of programs. I know this as fact. An ex brother-in-law spent his whole life going in and out of such programs and it likely cost governments hundreds of thousands of dollars to treat one drug addict. Now that synthetic fentanyl (100 times more potent than heroin), is on the street, it eventually assures the death of most addicts. It is better they obtain daily fixes from clinics rather than borrowing from the neighborhood pusher.

14. Lastly, we need to have our city council and our mayor act on neighborhood issues in a more profound way. Yes, fiscal issues are important. Downtown must be salvaged. But without thriving neighborhoods, Hartford falls. I asked a few leaders to sit down to discuss these growing problems in Hartford a few years ago. No one took me up on the offer.

Hyacinth Yennie

Continued from page 5

what you did. This became a part of her. When Hyacinth came to the United States she began to build a village of her own in Hartford, a place where people are connected, care about their community, and help each other. It’s a place where, “people are part of making a difference,” she said. “That is what it’s all about.”

That ability to build thriving villages is why OPMAD and the Southend Knight Riders are still going strong over two decades later. Every day after school, OPMAD gives kids at five Hartford schools exposure to martial arts, music lessons, field trips, and other enrichment activities. The Southend Knight Riders became the Compass Youth Collaborative (CYC). CYC works with youth at schools around the city of Hartford. They keep kids out of trouble and develop young



Barry Square Community Day 2014. Hundred of bikes have been given away to local youngsters at the event through the years, which is organized by the Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG), of which Hyacinth Yennie is President. (Hartford News file photo)

leaders through positive opportunities and caring mentors. One of the teenagers who founded the organization works there as the Director of Partnerships. Former youth and employees can be found at various organizations around the city making a difference through caring relationships. Over the years, thou-

sands of youth have been impacted and empowered to build and take care of villages of their own. All of this began because a group of ordinary people decided they were not satisfied with the status quo, they needed to do something, and took that first step. Sometimes that is all it takes.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Anna S. Liegl,
AKA Anna Liegl
(21-00292)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated April 12, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Sandra A. Liegl
c/o Scott B Franklin
Scott B Franklin & Associates,
68 South Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
William A. Mason
(13-0016)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated February 4, 2013, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Francesca Knerr, Esq.,
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Maureen L. Mason
131 Enfield St.
Hartford, CT 06112

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
John Phillippe
(20-00917)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated April 19, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Wanda Phillippe
41 Kathleen Way
Manchester, CT 06042

LIQUOR PERMIT
Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I,
RUSSELIA GARCIA
472 SALMON BROOK STREET
GRANBY, CT 06035-1402

Have filed an application placarded 04/13/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a GROCERY BEER PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at
130 HILLSIDE AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-3020

The business will be owned by:
FORDHAM ROAD MARKET, LLC

Entertainment will consist of:
NONE

Objections must be filed by:
05-25-2021
RUSSELIA E. GARCIA

Goodwin Park
Fitness Boot Camp

Starting Monday, April 26th, an Outdoor Fitness Boot Camp series will be held in Goodwin Park, at the old tennis courts (near the golf course parking off Maple Avenue). It will run 5:30-6:30 pm every Monday through June 28. The course is open to all ages and is free, but you must register at hartfordmyrec.com.

News Briefs

Continued from page 1

Church of the Good Shepherd and Parish House, the Capewell Nail Factory, and the Polish National Home. Along the way, tour guides will discuss the changes industry and immigration had on these neighborhoods in Hartford Suggested \$5 donation. Participants should meet at the east end of the Butler-McCook Garden, also accessible through the Amos Bull House entrance at 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford. Registration required at <https://ctl-historic-south-end-walk.eventbrite.com>.

HELP NHELP!!

North End Little Pantries (NELP) is a food accessibility project in the North End of Hartford. The first Little Pantry was just installed at the corner of Garden and Mather Streets. Another is planned for Sterling Street. Eventually, NELP hopes to cover the whole North End with Little Free Pantries. NELP is a project started for neighbors, by neighbors in collaboration with Nonprofit Accountability Group (NAG) and 4Unity Community Outreach Corp. Each pantry will be accessible 24/7, and depends on contributions from donors.

Donors can leave food (nonperishable or produce only please) in the pantries for neighbors to access, or monetary donations can be sent through cashapp to \$juubejoanna or through paypal to joannaiovino860@gmail.com . Please put "little pantries" in the notes.

Urban League Career Fair May 12

The Urban League of Greater Hartford will host its 21st annual Employment Empowerment Expo and Career Fair from 12-3 pm on Wednesday, May 12. The fair will be held both in-person at the Swift Factory, 10 Love Lane, Hartford; and online at: <https://bit.ly/ulgh2021careerfair>. In addition to companies seeking employees (and possible on-site hiring), the event will include workshops and networking. The career fair is being co-hosted by several community organizations, including the United Way, Sentry Foundation, Hartford Police Department, Hartford Fire Department and the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services.

MARG Meets May 13

The Maple Avenue Revitalization

Group (MARG) will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 13, at 6 pm in the lower level of Saint Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford. Representatives from the City of Hartford Housing Department and the Hartford Parking Authority. Those attending the meeting must wear masks and practice social distancing. For more information, call Hyacinth Yennie at 860-296-5543.

2021 Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit Program

The City of Hartford is now accepting applications for the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (CT DRS) 2021 Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit program. This program gives non-profit organizations cash investments in qualifying community programs that are provided by business firms in exchange for tax credits. NAA applications and general information about the program can be found on the State's website <https://portal.ct.gov/DRS/Credit-Programs/Neighborhood-Assistance/Neighborhood-Assistance-Act-Tax-Credit-Program>. Please submit complet-

ed NAA applications electronically (PDF-Format) to [Ronnie Vazquez](mailto:Ronnie.Vazquez@hartford.gov) at Ronnie.Vazquez@hartford.gov, no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, May 7, 2021.

Job Training Program Accepting Applications Now

CRT is accepting applications for its YouthBuild job training program. We are seeking young adults 18 – 24 from Hartford and East Hartford who want to earn while you learn! Weekly stipend paid! No High School diploma needed – we'll help you get your GED! Opportunities available in Construction, CNA or Medical Assistant, and Security Guards. Training will be held at the CRT Youth Artisan and Technology Center, 1443-1445 Main Street, Hartford. For more information, call 860-560-5308, ext. 227.

Hartford Rec Block Parties Next Month

The Hartford Recreation Division will host several Block Parties this month. The events, which will feature arts & crafts, games, inflatables, raffles, food, community partners and giveaways, will be held on Saturdays from 12-2

Spring Leaf Collection

The City of Hartford Department of Public Works will collect leaves and branches this week and the weeks of April 26 and May 3. Leaves must be put in paper leaf bags and placed at the curb. Branches and other brush debris must be tied up in bundles no longer than six feet and placed at the curb. These items will be picked up on your regular trash day.

You may also drop off your leaves in paper bags at the Hartford Waste and Recycling Center, 180 Leibert Road in Hartford's North Meadows from 9 am - 2 pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

pm at the following locations: May 1: Willie Ware Center, 687 Windsor St.; May 8: Goodwin Park Pond House, (located off Hubbard Road); May 15: Keney Park Playground, 383 Edgewood St.; May 22: GRAND RE-OPENING! of Metzner Rec. Center & Early Learning Center, 680 Franklin Ave.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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EMPLOYMENT

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Dynamic Allstate Insurance agency is looking for full-time P&C licensed agents and customer-service personnel and a part-time telemarketer. Please email your resume to aaguh@allstate.com or mail or drop it off at the office, 737 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford, VT 06114 or call 860-247-0829.

Electricians Needed

Sunderland Electric is looking for Electricians. Be able to install power supply wiring and conduit, read blueprints, running MC cable, installing transformers, switchgear and panels. Please email resume to ap@sunderlandelectric.com.

Super/ Handyman wanted for North End Buildings

Experienced and reliable super/handyman wanted to oversee multiple 6 family apartment buildings on the North End. Must be experienced with tenant apartment repairs, able to deal with tenants, must have own transportation and reliable phone contact. Immediate. References required. Call (860) 882 3650. Leave message for owner.

Employment

Sewers wanted. Hand or machine, experience needed. Call 860-803-7260.

Music Lessons and More

Instruction in piano, violin, voice & drums as well as math and English. Reasonable fees. Call Dr. Wilson at 860-727-8146.

Plumbing Laborer/Apprentice

FAD Mechanical is seeking someone eager and ready to learn the Plumbing trade working on new construction projects. M-F 7am to 3:30pm. \$15-\$18 based on experience. OSHA card and valid transportation required. Must be a Hartford resident. Email Resume: admin@fadmechanical.com

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Real Estate

Looking to connect with anyone interested in real estate and helping people. No money needed, no credit needed, good credit but no money, okay, coming into money, okay. Also seeking home improvement workers. Call Chris at 860-525-4554, CT area.

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Part-Time Workers

Handyman and part-time workers wanted. Call 860-803-7260.

Restaurant Help Needed

Nevins Pizza & Bar, 40 John Street, Hartford seeking Bartenders, Kitchen Help and Waitresses. Call 860-461-1669 or 860-461-1095

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42 Anover Street, Hartford. 3 bedrooms, 2nd floor with deck. Stove & fridge included. Oil heat. Cold flat. Asking \$1,350 with security deposit. Call 860-805-9045.

Apartment for Rent

1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments on Arnold Street and Deerfield Avenue. Appliances included cold flat. Section 8 welcome. Affordable rents. Call 860-752-9060.

Apartments for Rent

Large studio & 1-BR. All include heat and hot water, parking, stove & fridge, washer & dryer in basement. Section 8 welcome. No pets, plenty of closet space. Call Imer at 917-681-5785 or Pablo at 860-983-9444.

Rooms for Rent East Hartford

Nice, clean rooms for rent, 311 Tolland Street, East Hartford. \$160/week, includes all utilities. Call Robert, 860-308-5455.

Rooms for Rent in Vintage Historic Building in Downtown Hartford

Small sleeping rooms. Large windows. Clean, quiet and safe. Located on Asylum Street in Downtown Hartford. On busline. References required. \$150-\$165 weekly. Call 860-985-7999. Text or leave message if no answer.

Room For Rent

Rooms for rent in Hartford's West End. Utilities included. \$150 weekly. Security deposit. Call 860-888-6655.

For Rent

Spacious 3 Bedroom apartments on the 2nd floor, West End. Cold Flat. 1 month security and 1 month rent. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-888-6655.

22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford

This is a spacious 2-bedroom unit with hardwood floors. This rents for \$975-\$850 and includes heat and hot water. Close proximity to shopping centers, restaurants and on bus line. On-site laundry and street parking. Section 8 welcomed. No pets. Contract Christine at 860-985-8258.

Church Space for Rent

Existing church building, highly visible and on the bus line. The space provides a sanctuary, pastor's office, administrative office, plenty of classroom/ministry space, multiple bathrooms and off-street parking. This is an excellent space for a growing congregation. For more details call: Bill, 860-608-6998.

Apartments for Rent

Efficiency, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms available. Walking distance to shopping, on bus line, off-street parking. Small pets welcome. Section 8 Welcome. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR-\$1000. Call 860-549-3000.

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Room for Rent

Furnished room with utilities and kitchen privileges. \$130 weekly. 860 560-8200.

El Informativo Latino

Arrestan joven en conexión a la muerte de niño de 3 años en Hartford

La policía de Hartford anunció un arresto el lunes por la muerte a tiros de un niño de tres años a principios de abril.

La policía dijo que los oficiales arrestaron a Jaziah Smith, de 19 años, bajo el cargo de asesinato en la muerte a tiros de Randell Jones en Nelson Street el 10 de abril.

Los detectives dicen que a través de su investigación, pudieron identificar a Smith, un residente de Hartford, como el presunto sospechoso en la muerte del niño.

La policía de Hartford dijo que Randell, de Hartford, de 3 años, recibió un disparo justo antes de las 2:30 p.m. el 10 de abril mientras estaba en un automóvil con su madre; sus hermanos de 4 y 5 años; y un pasajero masculino, que creen que era el objetivo.

Estaban cerca de la intersección de las calles Garden y Nelson cuando un Honda Accord negro

se detuvo junto a ellos y un pasajero comenzó a disparar, dijo la policía.

El niño fue la única persona que resultó herida en ese tiroteo.

El teniente Aaron Boisvert, de la policía de Hartford, dijo anteriormente que la víctima prevista del tiroteo se había presentado y estaba cooperando con la policía.

Smith fue detenido sin incidentes por miembros del Grupo de Trabajo de Fugitivos de la Policía de Hartford, la Unidad de Crímenes Violentos y la División de Robo de Automóviles, dijo la policía.

Fue detenido con una fianza de 1.75 millones de dólares, según la policía. Durante una comparecencia ante el tribunal el lunes, el juez fijó una fianza de \$2.5 millones. La próxima fecha de la corte se fijó para el 4 de mayo. *By Iris Rodriguez*



Restricciones de comercio se eliminarán gradualmente para el 19 de mayo

El gobernador dijo que todas las restricciones al aire libre se levantarán a partir del 1 de mayo. A los restaurantes se les permitirá servir alcohol sin comida y ya no habrá un límite de personas en la mesa.

El toque de queda para las empresas también se retrasará a las 12 a.m. a partir del 1 de mayo, dijo Lamont en una conferencia de prensa el lunes.

Todas las demás restricciones comerciales se eliminarán gradualmente a partir del 19 de mayo, dijeron funcionarios estatales. Estas restricciones incluirán límites de tamaño y reglas de distanciamiento social para empresas como grandes lugares para eventos, bares y clubes nocturnos.

El Departamento de Salud Pública emitirá recomendaciones para la operación segura de eventos en interiores y grandes al aire libre, según Lamont. El gobernador dijo que el uso de mascarillas en interiores continuará, sin embargo, no está claro si será un "requisito" o una "recomendación" para el 19 de mayo.



Lamont dijo que está en conversaciones con otros funcionarios y hará ese anuncio antes de la reversión completa para las empresas de Connecticut.

La eliminación gradual de las restricciones está sujeta a una baja incidencia y mejoras continuas en las tasas de vacunación, dijo Lamont.

El estado ha superado las 8.000 muertes por coronavirus y la tasa de positividad es del 2,68%, según el gobernador Ned Lamont.

Las hospitalizaciones permanecen por debajo de 500 en 494. Hubo un aumento neto de ocho en los últimos tres días. *By Iris Rodriguez*



Outdoor Art Exhibit on Puerto Rico

Artist Pablo Delano speaks on Saturday, April 17, at the opening of "The Museum of the Old Colony," his new art exhibit at Pope Park. The exhibit examines the effects of U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico through photos and artifacts, which Delano has been collecting for many years. Delano was born in Puerto Rico and is now a fine arts professor at Trinity College, and. The exhibit is located on the east side of the swimming pool fence at Pope Park, so it can be viewed by anyone, anytime. Plans are already underway to bring it to other locations in Hartford. *(Hart photo)*



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